

From: **Dennis Fast** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tue, Nov 26, 2019 at 10:22 AM
Subject: Your Letter
To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear [REDACTED]

I am the Interim District Minister for USMB Pacific District Conference. My appointment was effective on August 15, 2019. I was forwarded your email dated November 7, 2019 and the report and related documents attached to your email. I apologize for the delay in responding to your email, however, I was out of the state when your email was forwarded to me. I have reviewed your email and the report and related documents attached to your email. Also, I have spoken with Derek Howell the Executive Pastor of The Bridge Bible Church ("Bridge Church"). Pastor Howell advises me the Bridge Church has chosen to address the situation involving Eric Simpson and you without seeking assistance from the Pacific District office. The Pacific District office does not become involved in these matters unless a church requests assistance from the Pacific District office. As you may be aware, Eric Simpson was licensed by the Pacific District. As a result of leaving the ministry at the Bridge Church, his license is no longer valid. It is also my understanding the Bridge Church will continue to assist Eric Simpson and you with the cost of counseling through the end of this year. My hope and prayer is for complete healing and a restored trust in the church. This would be a great blessing to everyone. Please know you are in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fast

From: **Don Morris** <[REDACTED]@usmb.org>
Date: Tue, Nov 26, 2019 at 12:43 PM
Subject: Email Response
To: [REDACTED]>
CC: David Hardt <[REDACTED]>

Dear [REDACTED]

I am the national director for USMB. I received your email a few weeks ago and have been waiting for the Pacific District to reply and have been informed that they have done so. It is our policy as the national office of USMB to allow individual churches to respond to the situation you describe in your letter. USMB would respond only if the church and the appropriate district conference both request such involvement. In other words, this is a situation that is out of USMB's pre-determined purview. It is also my understanding that Eric Simpson is no longer a

From: **Dennis Fast** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, Feb 7, 2020 at 2:00 PM

Subject: Pastoral Misconduct

To: [REDACTED]

February 7, 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

We acknowledge receiving your report of sexual abuse by one of the (former) pastors at The Bridge Bible Church. The leadership at the Pacific District is deeply saddened by this. We deeply regret the hurt done to you by one of our former pastors. We care about you and your recovery and pray for the day when you will feel whole again. While we believe that in Christ all things can be made new, we recognize the depth of your pain and the lengthy journey that recovery can be.

In reviewing your report and the actions taken by the church we believe that the leaders at The Bridge are sincere in seeking to bring healing to everyone involved, including the Body of Christ that makes up The Bridge. This has been a difficult year for you and for the church. We also believe that your greatest desire is to find healing from the hurt you endured by the pastor.

We affirm you for:

- Working deliberately and intentionally at counseling
- Striving to get beyond this painful experience
- Reaching out for help to others and for reaching out to us
- Sharing honestly and clearly your hurt and pain even though difficult
- Taking risks of vulnerability by sharing your story

We affirm The Bridge leadership for:

- Having taken immediate action over Eric's failure (he is no longer on staff; no longer licensed)
- Informing the church through several methods of communication
- Continuing to hold Eric accountable (He is not welcome to worship at The Bridge at this time, His teaching videos have been removed)
- Seeking assistance of an outside/independent ministry to guide them in this process
- Providing you with resources for counseling and moving your family
- Meeting with you and various people related to this failure in the process
- Acknowledging that you are a victim in this situation
- Considering Eric Simpson to be under church discipline at this time

We recognize that you disagree with several aspects of the church's handling of this situation. We concur that it would have been helpful for a woman to be on at least one of the teams that met with you. We are not making a judgement about your opinions and respect your view and

what you have been learning through your counseling. We do feel that while not all actions meet your approval, we find the church to have been proactive, intentional, and thorough in its attempt to handle this delicate matter.

We will continue to pray for healing for the church, the leaders, and for you.

Dennis Fast

For the Leadership of the Pacific District Conference